

Senate Resolution 579

By: Senators Tolleson of the 20th, Golden of the 8th, Bulloch of the 11th and Hooks of the 14th

ADOPTED SENATE**A RESOLUTION**

- 1 Creating the Senate Biomass/Bioenergy Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, bioenergy from forest and agricultural sources is a major economic
- 3 development opportunity for the State of Georgia; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia has some 24 million acres of privately owned forest land available for
- 5 the production of renewable bioenergy; and
- 6 WHEREAS, bioenergy is a distributed business model where many smaller industrial
- 7 investments will be made throughout rural Georgia and will provide jobs, revenues, energy
- 8 security, and environmental benefits to all Georgians; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Georgia has expertise and strategic strengths in logistic infrastructure; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the ability to acquire abundant, high-quality, and cost-effective biomass is a
- 11 critical consideration in the location and investment decisions for bioenergy production; and
- 12 WHEREAS, many producers and suppliers are involved in the biomass supply chain and
- 13 must be brought together to enhance the development of highly efficient and integrated
- 14 supply chains; and
- 15 WHEREAS, improvements in the supply chain of biomass-to-energy will enhance the
- 16 competitiveness of many existing industries including the manufacturing of forestry and
- 17 agricultural equipment, transportation equipment, pulp and paper, and building materials; and
- 18 WHEREAS, up to 50 percent of the cost of the delivered cost of biomass for energy
- 19 production is the logistics and transportation cost of the biomass; and

20 WHEREAS, up to one third of the cost of bioenergy is due to the delivered cost of the
21 biomass fuel; and

22 WHEREAS, optimizing the biomass-to-bioenergy supply chain is a major focus of the
23 federal government, which has made available significant resources and funding to assist in
24 this development; and

25 WHEREAS, the ability for this state to encourage and coordinate and support the
26 development of the most efficient production processing and distribution of biomass will
27 provide the state with a significant strategic advantage in energy security and economic
28 development opportunities.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
30 Biomass/Bioenergy Study Committee to be composed of five members of the Senate to be
31 appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate a
32 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
33 meetings of the committee.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
35 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
36 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
37 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
38 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
39 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
40 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
41 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
42 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
43 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
44 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
45 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
46 made on or before December 1, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on
47 December 1, 2009.